



# UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT SOUTH AFRICA



South Africa

## PROJECT: Tertiary Education Linkages Project (TELP)

<b>Activity Purpose:</b> Improve Higher Education Development in South Africa	<b>Location:</b> Nationwide universities (Completion event: Durban--Elangeni Sun Hotel)
<b>USAID's Partners:</b> Department of Education (DoE), United Negro College Fund, Higher Education South Africa (HESA), South African Universities	<b>Project Duration:</b> 1995 to 2006
<b>Date &amp; Time:</b> August 18, 2006; 10:00AM	<b>USAID Funding:</b> +/-US\$50 million
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<p><b>Overview of the Tertiary Education Linkages Project (TELP):</b> South African education was in complete race-based turmoil when democracy was elected for the first time by all South Africans of voting age in 1994. Overhauling the education system was a crucial priority for the new government who requested USAID's professional assistance to improve capacity, policies and practices at all education levels.</p> <p>TELP was developed specifically to increase access and quality of higher education for disadvantaged communities. The initiative was set up in 1995 through a bilateral grant agreement between the governments of the United States of America (represented by USAID) and South Africa's Department of Education (DoE). TELP had two phases: TELP I (1995-2002) and TELP II (2003-2006). The project was managed collaboratively by the Vice-Chancellors of the 17 Historically Disadvantaged Institutions (HDIs), the DoE, USAID and the primary contractor, United Negro College Fund Special Programs (UNCFSP). TELP has provided technical expertise, support and US linkages in the focus areas identified by the Vice Chancellors. It was implemented during the time of major changes in South Africa's higher education landscape and it was instrumental in transforming the discriminatory education approach to the current single-coordinated higher education system.</p> <p>TELP contributed to an improved quality of higher education and training in the whole of South Africa by providing training in key areas for leadership, administration and teaching at the HDIs. It also provided support to the Department of Education (DoE) in the development and implementation of the higher education policy with the following national level programs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Develop the National Plan for Higher Education</li> <li>2. Develop policy and "Guidelines for Mergers and Incorporations", and</li> <li>3. Provide technical assistance to develop the National Institutes for Higher Education</li> <li>4. Provide assistance to develop the executive leadership of the higher education institutions (Higher Education Leadership and Management (HELM) program held in conjunction with Higher Education South Africa (HESA)</li> <li>5. Developing a program exclusively for women higher education leaders--Women in Higher Education Executive Leadership (WHEEL)</li> </ol> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• At an institutional level, TELP was involved in five broad areas: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Curriculum and program development</li> <li>2. Student academic development</li> <li>3. Research development</li> <li>4. Staff development</li> <li>5. Management and administrative development</li> </ol> </li> </ul> <p>The above activities were also achieved through the promotion of institutional linkages between the South African and United States universities. TELP has also assisted almost all the HDIs to establish the Quality Assurance units and HIV/AIDS centers. Some of these HIV/AIDS centers work with the national health/public health system in addressing challenges faced by students affected by this pandemic.</p> <p><b>Sustainability:</b> The activities addressed by the TELP program were mostly identified and driven by the South African government. As such, most projects were institutionalized at the university level, organizational level (e.g., HESA) and even at the governmental level. These projects have been subsumed into the structures of these institutions and will be instrumental in the ongoing development of quality higher education in South Africa.</p>	
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